

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for concentration for liquid mixtures, comprising the steps of:

feeding a continuous stream of a liquid mixture into a turbo-concentrator comprising a cylindrical tubular body which has an internal wall, a horizontal axis and which is equipped with an opening for an introduction of the liquid mixture and with an opening for the discharge of a final product, a heating jacket for heating said internal wall of said tubular body ~~to a predetermined temperature~~, and a bladed rotor rotatably supported in said cylindrical tubular body where said bladed rotor is rotated at circumferential speeds variable from 30 to 50 m/s,

centrifuging the liquid mixture to form dynamic and tubular thin layer in which the liquid mixture is maintained in a state of turbulence by the blades of said bladed rotor,

advancing said dynamic and tubular thin layer to said discharge opening of the turbo-concentrator, causing said dynamic and tubular thin layer to flow substantially in contact with said heated internal wall to the discharge opening, and

discharging continuously a stream of a concentrated liquid mixture.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 6, wherein a stream of a gas is fed into the turbo-concentrator such that the continuous stream of liquid mixture and gas flow in the same direction along a longitudinal axis of the turbo-concentrator.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 6, wherein after said discharging, at least a portion of the [[continuous]] stream of the concentrated liquid mixture leaving the turbo-concentrator is [[recycled]] fed to the turbo-concentrator.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 7, wherein after said discharging, a portion of the [[continuous]] stream of the concentrated liquid mixture leaving the turbo-concentrator is continuously fed [[in again continuously]] upstream of the turbo-concentrator.

Claim 10 (new): The method according to Claim 6, wherein the heating jacket is a heating jacket for heating said internal wall of said tubular body to a temperature in the range of 120°C to 240°C.